Minister whether there has been any official approach to President Zia about the credibility or confirmation of the statement by him.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : Sir, these matters are under constant discussion and whenever our officials and our Ministers and at the highest level, our leaders meet these matters are discussed as very important matters.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Constitution of Boards of Directors of Banks

*402. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to nominate employees' nominees on the Boards of Directors of nationalised banks and other public financial institutions; and

(b) what are the criteria adopted for the selection of Directors and whether women candidates are given any opportunity in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI) : (a) Employee Directors are being appointed on the Boards of Directors of Public Sector Banks and Industrial Development Bank of India in accordance with the provisions in the relevant statutes.

(b) As in the case of Employee Directors, appointment of other Directors on the Boards of Public Sector Banks, Financial Institutions are made in accordance with the provisions of the statutes governing them. Broadly, non-official Directors are selected to represent specific interests and in view of their knowledge and experience which are considered beneficial for the institution concerned. It has been Government's endeavour to give representation to women on the Boards of Directors of banks and financial institutions by selecting women with the required knowledge and experience.

Rewards to Central Excise and Customs Officials

*407. SHRI K. GOPALAN :
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of Central Excise and Customs officials who were given rewards in terms of money during the last three years, year-wise and zone-wise and also the amount paid to them;

(b) what is the value of goods and the extent of evasion of various duties detected in each zone by the Central excise and customs officials during the above period; and

(c) whether there has been an increase in smuggling activities after the introduction of the scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI) : (a) The number of Central Excise and Customs Officials who were given cash rewards during the last 3 years and also the total amount paid to them are as under :

Year	No. of Officers	Amount paid as reward (Rs. in lakhs)
1983-84	7161	77·3
1984-85	8162	59·0
1985-86	3699	388.8

(Figures are provisional)

Rewards paid to officials zone-wise are not maintained.

(b) The details of the seizures made under the Customs Act, Central Excises and Salt Act and Duty Evasion detected during the last 3 years are furnished below :

Year	Customs (Rs. in crores)
1984	101·09
1985	195.63
1986 (Upto Sept.)	163·76

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Central Excise	
	Value of goods seized	Estimated duty evasion detected
1984	22·83	64·49
1985	40·73	340·83
1986 (upto Sept.)	3·57	425·76

(c) Smuggling being a clandestine activity, no reliable estimates are feasible. However, it can be stated that the liberalised reward scheme has acted as an incentive for increased seizures of contrabands and detection of larger number of cases of tax evasions.

Standing Labour Committee on workers' participation in management

*408. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1614 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd December, 1985 and state :

(a) whether the Standing Labour Committee has since taken a decision with regard to the workers' participation in the management of public, private and co-operative sector establishments;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if the reply to part (a) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b) The 28th Session of the Indian Labour Conference (ILC) held in November, 1985 had agreed in principle to the implementation of the Scheme of Workers' Participation in the public, private and co-operative sectors at various levels.

As recommended by the ILC, the question whether the scheme should be voluntary or by legislation was placed before the Standing Labour Committee which in its meeting held at Delhi on 22nd & 23rd September, 1986 has remitted the question to the Tripartite Committee.

(c) In view of the reply to (a) & (b) above, does not arise.

Efforts by the Labour Ministry for better conditions of work for beedi workers

*409. SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the recent efforts made by his Ministry towards welfare and better conditions of work for the beedi workers have yielded positive results;

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to bring about coordination among the beedi workers' unions, Labour Inspectors, Labour Commissioners and Excise officials in realising cess on manufactured beedis;

(c) what is the rate of cess being presently levied on manufactured beedis; and

(d) whether it is a fact that Government propose to raise the rate of cess; if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) Yes, Sir. A large number of identity cards have been issued to beedi workers to enable them to obtain access to welfare facilities. New medical institutions have been opened, housing projects have been sanctioned and scholarships are being given to larger number of children.

(b) The cess is realised by the Central Excise Department alongwith the excise duty.

(c) Ten paise per 1000 beedis.

(d) No, Sir.

Issue of tax-free bonds by public sector undertakings

*410. SHRI J. P. GOYAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) what are the names of the public sector undertakings which have been permitted to issue tax-free bonds to the public;

(b) what is the purpose for which they were allowed to issue these bonds and what are the other details about these bonds; and

(c) the extent to which these bonds have been subscribed by the public ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN